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Public Involvement Means Public Support (Spring 1998) | Pages

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OLA QUARTERLY

Reflections On A Theme

When I was asked to participate in the OLA election process last year, my thoughts turned to the ideas and concepts I wanted to emphasize if elected.

As my mind wandered (as it is inclined to do), my thoughts kept returning to a single phrase which neatly sums up my 15 years as a public library director: "Public involvement means public support." For a number of related reasons, I believe that this concept can be employed to serve every public library.

Public librarians request the public's support for everything we do. This includes funding levies, building projects, program developments, and even our inevitable intellectual freedom conflicts.

In Oregon the level of patron support underscores the level of public involvement. To sustain this involvement, we librarians have only to positively acknowledge and encourage it. I hope that anyone who can adapt or make use of this "Public involvement means public support" theme to improve their library will feel free to do so.

This issue of the *OLA Quarterly* includes a veritable smorgasbord of library topics. The breadth and viewpoint of the authors, while running the gamut from serious to frustrated to funny, is always polished and professional. I know you will all want to join me in thanking them for the thought-provoking efforts which made this issue possible.

Sara Charlton, *Guest Editor*
Tillamook County Library

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